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subject, they are too much given to the discussion of racial "problems." The volume before us has nothing of this, either in purpose or tone. It should prove healthfully stimulating to the youth for whom it is written.

ALFRED H. STONE.

Influences of Geographic Environment; on the Basis of Ratzel's System of Anthro-Geography. By ELLEN CHURCH-HILL SEMPLE. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1911. Pp. xvi, 683. \$4.00.)

Miss Semple began her work with the idea of making a paraphrase of Ratzel, but this proved impracticable owing to the many gaps in his system, the inclusion of certain unverified hypotheses, and his constant use of the now discarded "organic" theory of society. As a result, she was compelled to go back to the sources, and has produced a substantially new and independent work, despite its subtitle. In fact, it is the first and the only adequate treatment in English of human responses to environment, and on a par with the best in either German or French. The material is drawn from many sources—geography, anthropology, history and economics—and the result is a truly monumental work which no serious student of any of the social sciences can afford to ignore.

In point of arrangement it is topical or systematic rather than regional. The plan is:

To compare typical peoples of all races and all stages of cultural development, living under similar geographic conditions. If these peoples manifested similar or related social, economic, or historical development, it is reasonable to infer that such similarities are due to environment and not to race * * * *. The writer, moreover, has purposely avoided definitions, formulas, and the enunciation of hard and fast rules. * * * * For this reason the writer speaks of geographic factors and influences, shuns the word geographic determinant, and speaks with extreme caution of geographic control.

The work comprises seventeen chapters, of which the first seven are general in character. These chapters treat (1) the operation of geographical factors in history, (2) classes of geographical influences, (3) society and state in relation to the land, (4) movements of peoples in their geographic significance, (5) geographical location, (6) geographical area, (7) geographical boundaries. The next six chapters are devoted to the effects of certain types

of environment on man, the special topics being (1) coast peoples, (2) oceans and enclosed seas, (3) man's relation to the water, (4) the anthropo-geography of rivers, (5) continents and their peninsulas, (6) island peoples, (7) plains, steppes, and deserts, (8) mountain barriers and their passes, (9) influence of a mountain environment. Only the last chapter is devoted to the influence of climate upon man. This fact alone suggests how far we have traveled since the days of Buckle and Draper, when climate was the beginning and the end of the story. In this book, indeed, climate will be thought by many to come far short of its due share of attention; but this defect is the less serious because there is more usable material in English on climate than on any other phase of anthropo-geography.

The method is thoroughly scientific. Many examples are assembled and carefully examined to establish a single principle: and there is no sign of forcing the facts to fit any prearranged scheme. What is known is always sharply distinguished from what is surmised. The stage of economic and social development is always taken into consideration, and attention is pointed to the different responses called forth at different stages by the same environment. The work is also permeated by a constructive imagination which gives life even to abstract principles, while the style is always clear, lively and sometimes poetic. As a result, there is hardly a dull page in the book.

In view of the immense literature which has been mastered and to which copious references are given, it may seem ungracious to ask for more. It is, however, a fact that disproportionate use has been made of geography and anthropology, compared to history and economics: and that the works which are cited in the latter fields are far from representing the present condition of these sciences. In economics, for example, Malthus and Roscher are almost the only works cited: while in Greek history, reliance is placed on Grote and Curtius—both long since out of date. No reference is made to Busolt, Beloch, Holm, Keller, Ridgway, or even to the classic work on the physical geography of Greece by Neumann and Partsch. At later periods, Ferrero, Seeck, Cunningham, Meitzen, Brunhes, and Lamprecht are equally neglected. Even Seligman's *Economic Interpretation of History*, which traverses some of the same ground, appears not to have been consulted. It may be that the use of modern works would

not have materially changed the conclusions, but it would have immensely strengthened the authority of the work. It is therefore to be hoped that this defect will be remedied in a second edition.

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Histoire du Commerce de la France. Première Partie: avant 1789. By EMILE LEVASSEUR. (Paris: A. Rousseau. 1911. Pp. xxxiii, 611. 12.50 fr.)

On the reverse of Professor Levasseur's title page is printed a list of his chief works now on sale, which omits many substantial books from his pen, but comprises, nevertheless, sixteen volumes in the fields of economic history, geography, political economy and education. More than fifty years have passed since the publication, in 1854, of his *Recherches Historiques sur le Système de Law*, and the present volume is but the beginning of a new work, as it is to be followed by a companion volume which is already partly prepared. Such activity we may well admire, and for its products we must be grateful; yet we must feel regret that the author has been too busy with his writing to consider what other people were thinking, and that in method and in the quality of its contributions this last book differs scarcely, if at all, from his first. It contains much information about the history of the commerce of France, but it offers little that is new; it does not answer the questions on which scholars of the subject are now pondering, and, indeed, scarcely recognizes their existence.

The narrative begins in the neolithic period, but moves swiftly until the author reaches the Renaissance; and a full half of the book is devoted to the period of Louis XIV and to the eighteenth century. The author describes chiefly incidents in the history of commerce, but allows himself frequent digressions into the fields of industrial, social and political history. He covers many topics in commercial history more extensively than he had done in his *Histoire des Classes Ouvrières*, yet he makes no clear distinction between the content of the two books, and, in fact, refers the reader sometimes to his earlier book on the working classes for details of the history of commerce.

He contributes very little from manuscript sources, and does not even give references to the secondary authorities on which he bases his narrative. The bibliography, covering seven pages